

REMARKS

Claims 12-14, 16-24, and 26-28 were pending, examined, and rejected.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 12-14, 16-21, 23, 24, and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,094,476 issued to Hunt *et al.* (hereinafter, "Hunt") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,411,687 B1 issued to Bohacek *et al.* (hereinafter, "Bohacek") and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042592 A1 issued to Knott *et al.* (hereinafter, "Knott").

Claims 12-14, 16-24, and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 7,047,197 B1 issued to Bennett (hereinafter, "Bennett") in view of Bohacek and further in view of Knott.

The claimed invention and the subject matter disclosed in Knott were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to a common entity, namely, SBC Communications. Because the Knott reference qualifies as prior art only under 35 USC § 102(e), the reference shall not preclude patentability under Section 103(a). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the Knott reference as applied in any Section 103(a) rejections. Because all of the claims stand rejected under a Section 103(a) rejection that relies upon Knott, Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this paper contains a reply to each ground of rejection set forth in the Office Action and that the claims as presented herein are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of and favorable action for all pending Claims.

Applicants have submitted the requisite extension fees. If, however, additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0096 of Jackson Walker L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.236.2019.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. P. Lally", with a stylized, cursive script.

Joseph P. Lally
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